

BRIEF NOTE

New Localities in Ohio for Five Vascular Plant Species¹

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ABSTRACT. Floristic studies are imperative for documentation of our biodiversity. We conducted floristic surveys within regions of Ohio that were ecologically interesting and contained a diverse flora. We report new records of five vascular plant species, *Nigella damascena*, *Salix x sepulcralis*, *Spiraea x bumalda*, *Thermopsis villosa*, and *Veronica longifolia*. Two of these species have not been reported in Ohio, while three are new to the county in which they were collected.

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Various floristic studies leading to additions in the flora have been conducted all over Ohio (Wilder and McCombs 2003; Jog and others 2005). Such studies are important for compilation of species lists that are useful for baseline studies leading to future ecological and conservation work. We conducted several surveys for different purposes. Two of these surveys were conducted as parts of larger ecological studies, while others were conducted for documentation of flora leading to conservation efforts (Delong 2003; Jog 2003). Meander surveys were conducted; specimens of vascular plants were collected, pressed, keyed, and glued on rag paper. All identifications were checked by experts and annotated in some cases. We collected the following taxa that have not been previously reported within Ohio. Voucher specimens of all taxa are stored at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History; numbers in parentheses indicate herbarium accession numbers of specimens. Asterisks indicate that taxa are alien or non-native to the United States. Nomenclature follows Kartesz and Meacham (1999). Taxa were determined new to the county or state based on Andreas (1989); Kartesz and Meacham (1999); and Cooperrider and others (2001).

1. *Salix x sepulcralis* Simonkai* - Salicaceae; (He-068096). Collected in Highland Heights Community Park, Highland Heights, Cuyahoga Co., Ohio. This species was found growing as an individual tree in a wooded lot with high soil moisture content. It has also been recorded in Shaker Median Park, Beachwood Twp. in Cuyahoga County and has been collected by Delong (2003). This species has been reported in the adjacent states of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Michigan and is prevalent in much of the northeastern United States (Kartesz and Meacham 1999). However, it has not been reported in Ohio to date.
2. *Spiraea x bumalda* Burven* - Rosaceae; (He-068097). Collected in Highland Heights Community Park, growing singly on north edge of park. Highland Heights, Cuyahoga Co., Ohio. We think that this may

have been an escape from cultivation within nearby yards of privately owned houses and may no longer survive at this locality.

3. *Thermopsis villosa* (Walt.) Fern. & Schub. - Fabaceae; (He-68202). Collected in a vacant lot beneath power lines on Raintree Drive, Munson Twp., Geauga Co., Ohio. It was found growing as a clump of several individuals on dry soil. This species is present in eastern United States ranging from Maine to Alabama, except in South Carolina. It has also been reported in the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee, yet this is the first report of its occurrence in Ohio.

The following taxa have not been reported within the county in which they were collected:

1. *Nigella damascena* L.* - Ranunculaceae; (He-067525). Collected in a vacant lot in Highland Heights Community Park, Cuyahoga Co., Ohio. Growing as a cultivated escape at the edge of a wooded lot.
2. *Veronica longifolia* L.* - Scrophulariaceae; (He-068115). Collected in an open meadow adjacent to Soubusta Woods, Chardon, Geauga Co., Ohio. This species was observed growing in a clump, within a wet portion of the meadow.

Some of these species, albeit escapes from cultivation, deserve to be included in taxonomic keys for Ohio plants and in the Ohio flora. Our findings emphasize the constant need for alpha level taxonomy.

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